



# The Molecular Characterization Laboratory (aka MoCha)

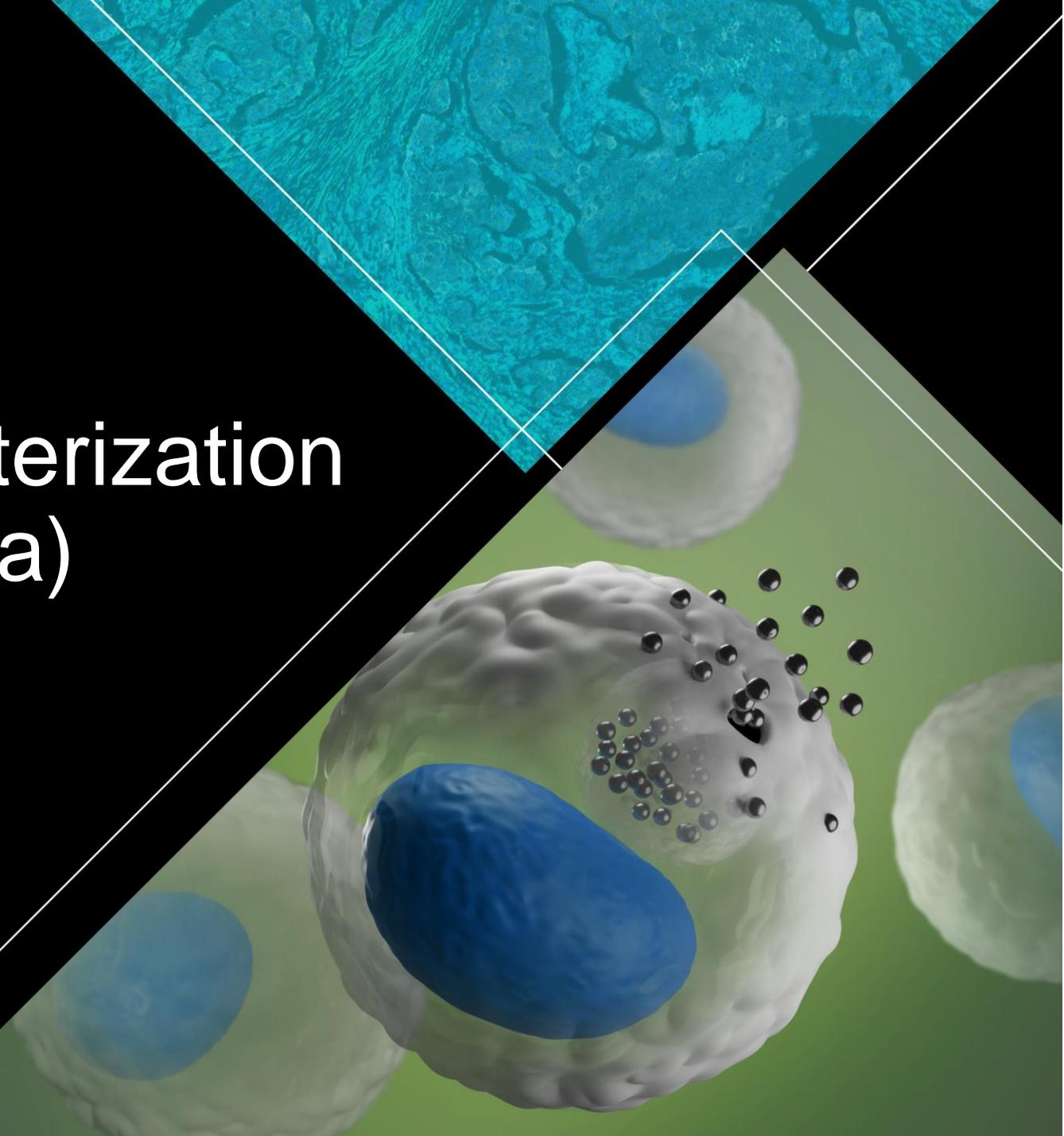
**P. Mickey Williams, PhD**

Director of the Molecular Characterization Lab,  
Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

February 27, 2023



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## Our Goals

- **Provide cutting-edge genomic technologies and assays that are well characterized, accurate and reproducible in support of NCI pre-clinical research and clinical efforts (DCTD)**
- **Provide technical expertise in support of the development and functional oversight of Leidos sub-contracted laboratory activities**
- **Utilize NCI and Leidos CRADAs to provide novel technologies and assays to meet our goals**
  - ◇ Illumina (TSO500ctDNA liquid biopsy assay)
  - ◇ ThermoFisher (Genexus Myeloid assay)
- **Sharing all of our data publicly through NCI approved databases**



# Laboratory Groups

- **Moonshot Biobank**
  - **Histology and Pathology (CLIA Accredited Complex Assay Lab)**
  - **Research and Development**
  - **CLIA Genomics Lab (CLIA Accredited Complex Assay Lab)**
  - **Quality Assurance**
  - **Bioinformatics**
  - **Administration**
- 
- **MoCha began in April 2010**



# Cancer Moonshot Biobank Research Protocol (NCI #10323)



# Cancer Moonshot Biobank: Primary Objective

To support current and future investigations into drug resistance and sensitivity and other NCI-sponsored cancer research initiatives through the procurement and distribution of multiple longitudinal biospecimens and associated data from a diverse group of cancer patients who are undergoing standard of care treatment at NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) sites and other NCTN sites.

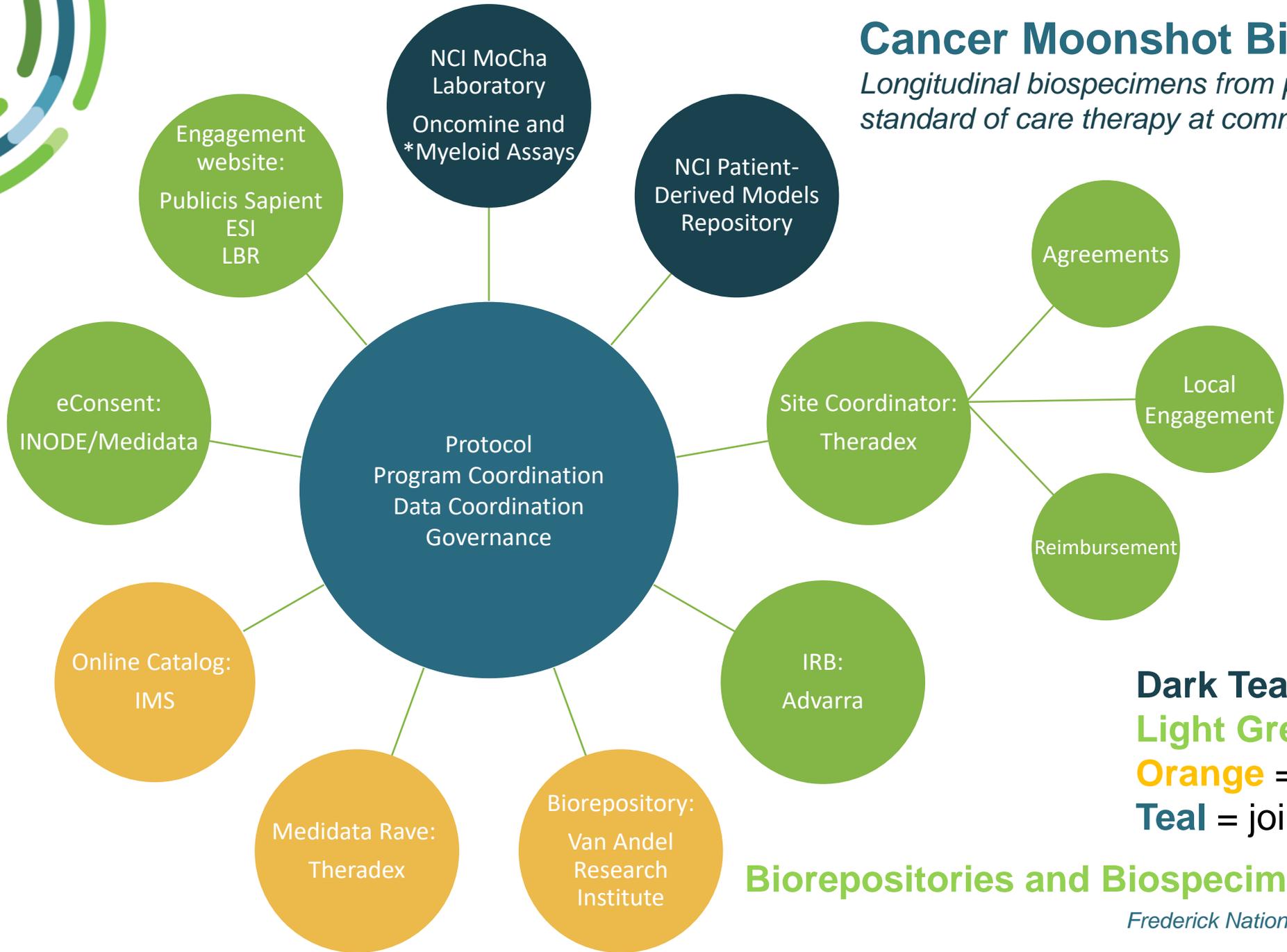


# Cancer Moonshot Biobank: Secondary Objectives

- To provide a service of value to study participants and their medical providers through the performance of molecular profiling assays on tumor samples in a CLIA-certified laboratory and reporting of results to physicians and patients that they may opt to use in clinical management.
- Enable the development of patient-derived models such as cell lines and xenografts for cancer researchers through the provision of biospecimens from 20% of study participants to the NCI's Patient Derived Models Repository (PDMR), a national resource available to investigators (<https://pdmr.cancer.gov/>).
- To develop increased capabilities in U.S. community hospitals and clinics for contribution to cancer research through biobanking activities.

# Cancer Moonshot Biobank

*Longitudinal biospecimens from patients undergoing standard of care therapy at community hospitals*



**Dark Teal** = NCI laboratory  
**Light Green** = LBR subcontract  
**Orange** = NCI contract  
**Teal** = joint NCI/LBR activities

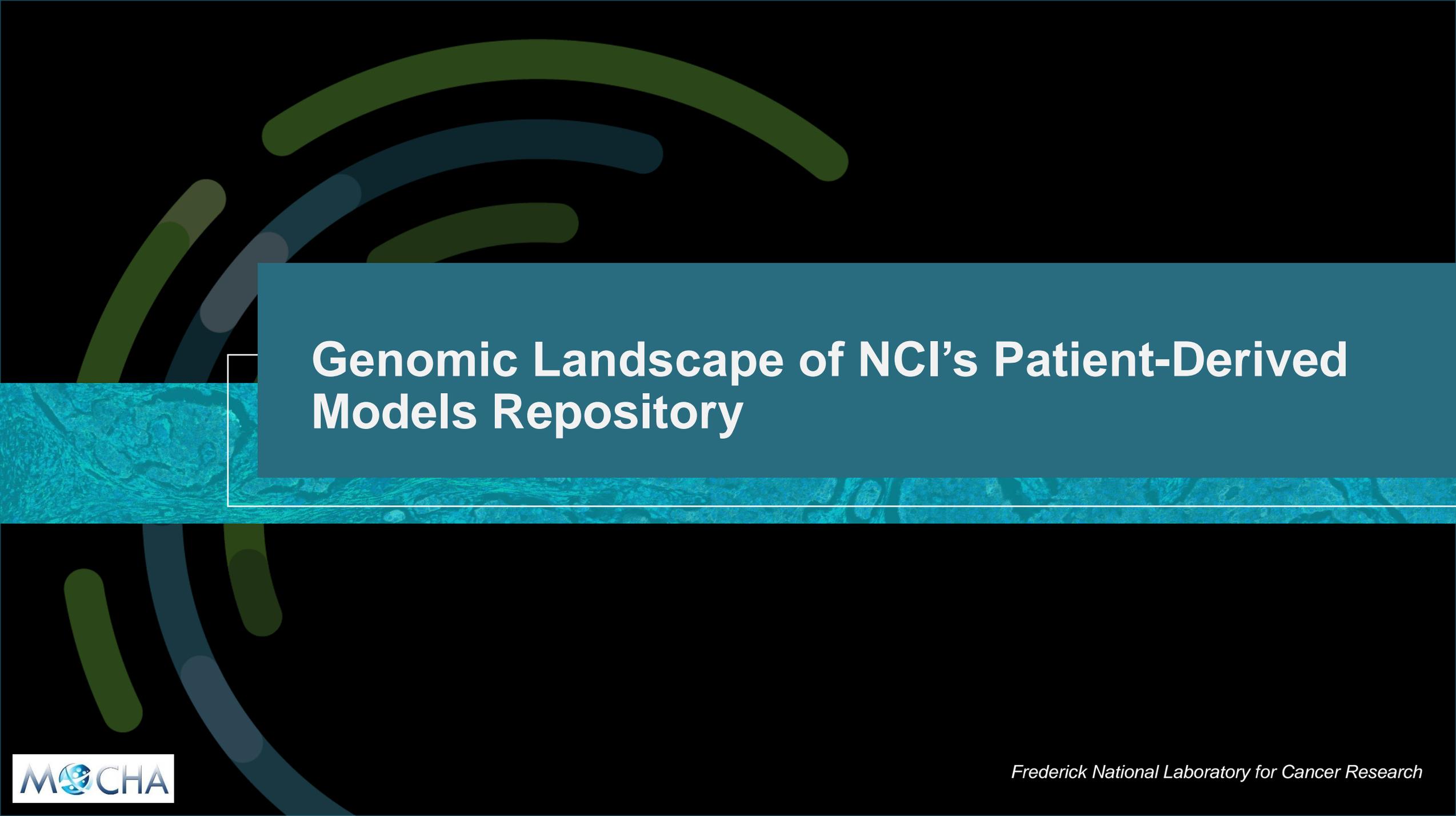
## Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research Branch

*Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research*



# Cancer Moonshot Biobank: Status

- **Study launch date: September 16, 2020**
- **Full data set (including histological and radiological images) released in dbGaP in 2022; planning for release to CTDC**
- **Enrollment as of February 20, 2023: 188**
- **60 clinical reports returned to patients and treating physicians**
- **Focus areas:**
  - ◇ Engagement of patients and sites to increase enrollment
  - ◇ Expansion of sites
  - ◇ Continued assessment of specimen and data quality
  - ◇ Preparation for data release



# Genomic Landscape of NCI's Patient-Derived Models Repository

# NCI Patient-Derived Models Repository (PDMR)

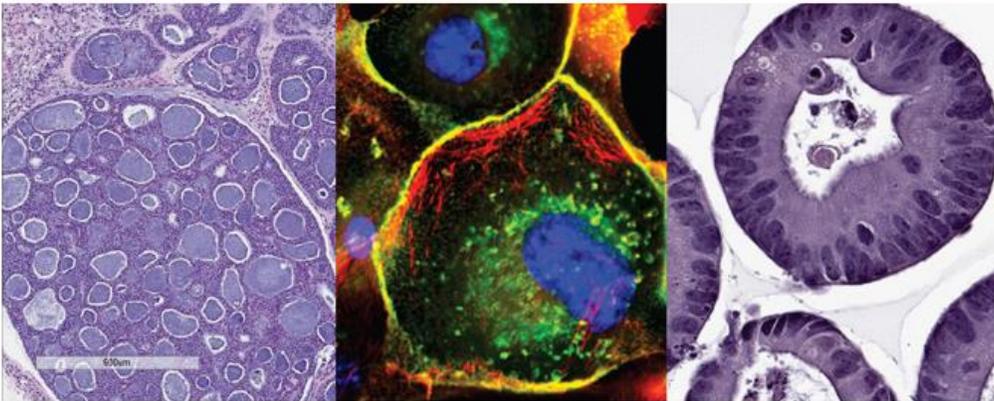


NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

DCTD Division of Cancer Treatment & Diagnosis

## PDMR NCI Patient-Derived Models Repository

Home About the PDMR PDMR Models SOPs How to Request Material



### Welcome to the NCI Patient-Derived Models Repository (PDMR)

#### Background

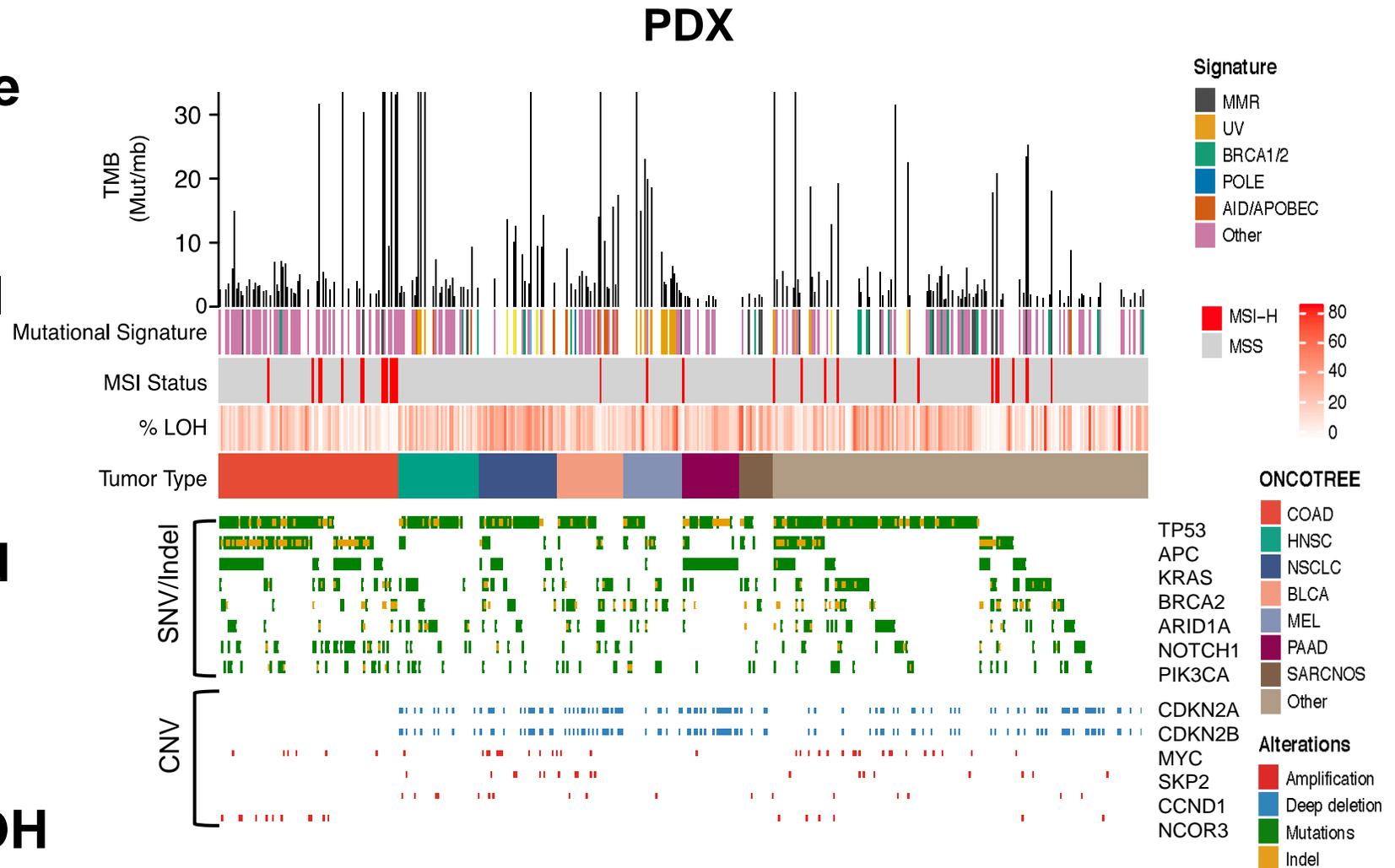
The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is developing a national repository of Patient-Derived Models (PDMs) comprised of patient-derived xenografts (PDXs) and in vitro patient-derived cell cultures (PDCs), including mixed cell populations, clonal cell lines, and fibroblast cell lines, to serve as a resource for public-private partnerships and for academic drug discovery efforts. These PDMs will be clinically-annotated with molecular information available in an easily accessible database and will be available to the extramural community.

- NCI has developed a national repository of Patient-Derived Models (PDM)
  - ◇ Patient-derived xenografts (PDX)
  - ◇ Patient-derived cell lines (PDC)
  - ◇ Patient-derived organoid models (PDOrg)
  - ◇ Cancer associated fibroblast cell lines (CAF)
- Models are available to the extramural research community
- All models have clinical and molecular data (WES and RNASeq) in an easily accessible database

<https://pdmr.cancer.gov>

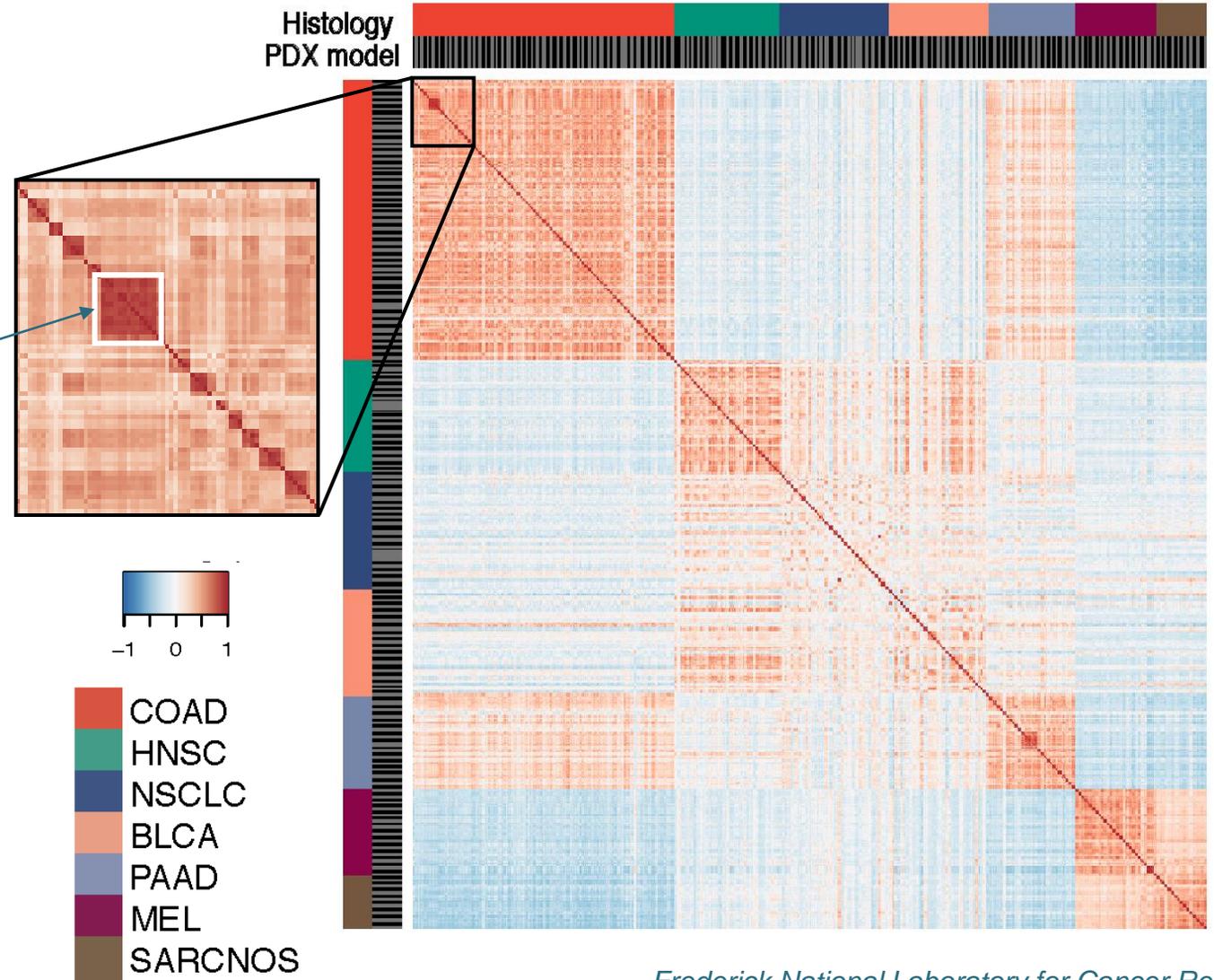
# Genomic Landscape of Altered Genes and Clinically Relevant Biomarkers in NCI PDMR

- TP53, APC, and KRAS are the most mutated genes
- Histology-specific enrichment of mutational signatures were observed
- MSI-high and POLE-mutated PDX models had higher TMB values
- Models with BRCA1/2 signatures had high %LOH



# Transcriptome Profiles Are Related by Histology and PDX Model Origin

- Pairwise Spearman correlation was conducted on gene expression profiles of PDX samples using normalized count values
- Samples in several common disease types are shown
- White box in the figure indicates samples in the same model
- PDX samples were ordered by their disease types





## PDMR General Observations to Date

- **822 preclinical models from 775 patients have both WES and RNASeq data**
- **Multiple levels of evidence indicate genomic aberrations in patient tumors are maintained and propagated during early passages (P0 through P2) of the PDX models**
  - ◇ Driver mutations, CNA profiles, transcriptomic profiles, and the associated clinically relevant biomarkers LOH and MSI
- **The majority of somatic SNV/indels observed in the patient originator specimen detected in the individual specimens for each model**
- **The NCI PDMR has established a large repository of preclinical models from diverse solid tumor histologies, including rare cancers, with accompanying clinical, histological, and molecular datasets providing a robust resource for pre-clinical drug development**



# Blood-Based Comprehensive Genomic Profiling: TSO500 ctDNA Assay

- **After assessment of 4 different assay technologies, it was decided to move forward with an Illumina pre-commercial assay**
  - ◇ TSO500ctDNA provided:
    - Largest gene panel, 523 cancer relevant genes and all exons sequenced including the large tumor suppressor genes, e.g. BRCA1 & 2 and ATM
    - Gene copy amplification, MSI, and TMB are reported
    - Tiling of relevant introns in clinically relevant gene translocations
- **Work performed under Leidos and NCI CRADA's**
- **Close collaboration with Illumina assay development and bioinformatic teams**

# A 10 mL Tube of Blood Contains Very Little ctDNA

10 mL blood collection tube

~55% plasma by volume

~40 ng cell-free DNA from plasma. Consists of:

- Wildtype cfDNA of hematopoietic origin
- **Circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA)**

Average draw is ~9 mL

~4-5 mL plasma purified

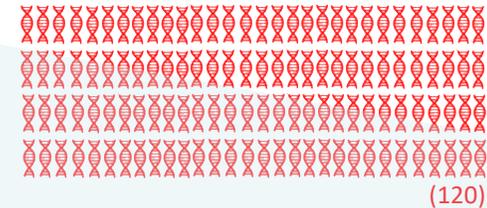
- 3.3 pg/ haploid genome
- 40 ng= **12,000 haploid genome equivalents**

Mutant allele frequency

ctDNA molecules present for input into an assay

Wildtype molecules

1%



x11,880

0.1%



x11,988

0.05%



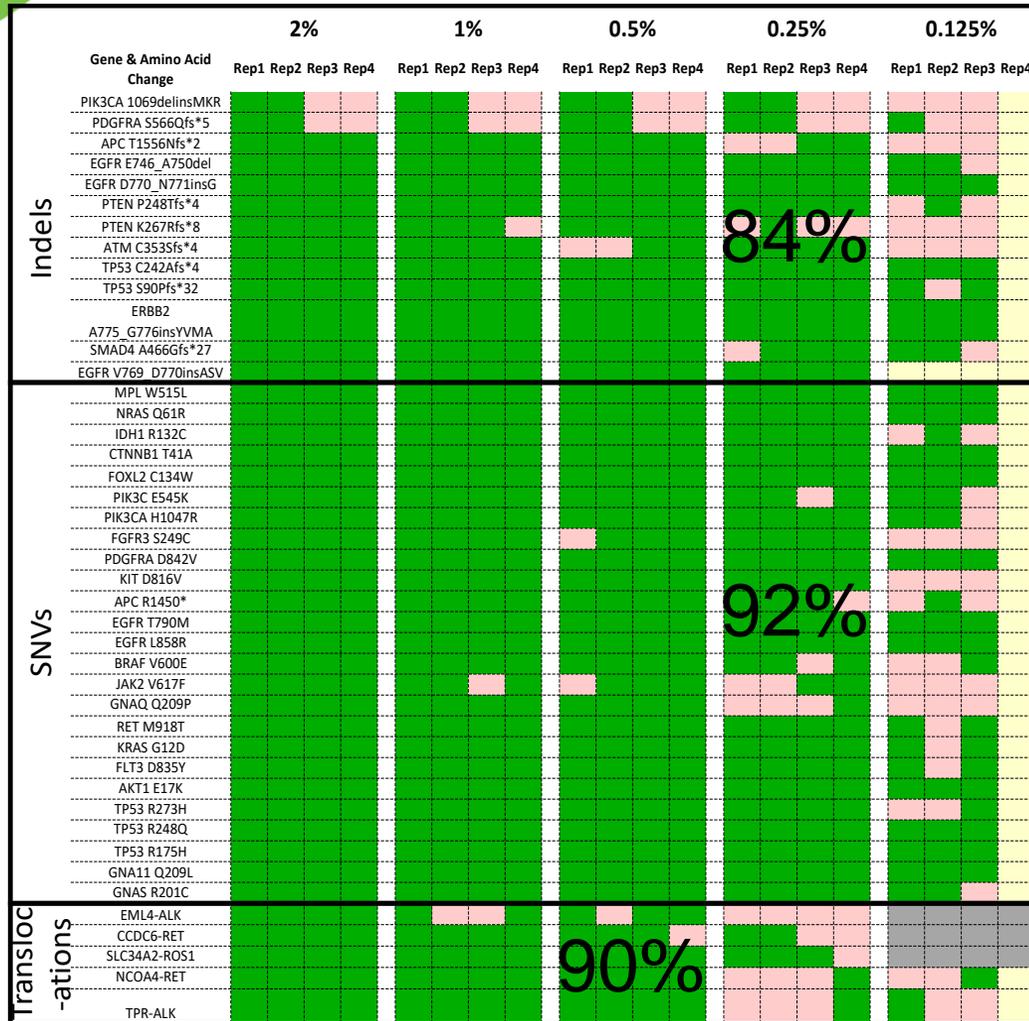
x11,994



## Intended Use of a ctDNA Assay

- **Intended use: Initial use as an Integrated clinical research assay,**
- **If needs arise move into an Integral predictive or prognostic biomarker assay for trial support**
  - ◇ Integrated assays have specimens collected during a clinical trial for use in research
    - No results are returned to physician or patient
  - ◇ Integral assays are used to enroll, stratify or manage treatment of patients in a clinical trial

# LoD80 Established for 3 Variant Types



Titration Point	Rep1	Rep2	Rep3	Rep4
	A	2.644	2.666	2.671
B	1.832	1.833	1.832	1.828
C	1.327	1.325	1.316	1.307
D	ND	ND	ND	ND
E	ND	ND	ND	ND

Titration Point	Rep1	Rep2	Rep3	Rep4
	A	2.169	2.193	2.169
B	1.389	1.38	1.39	1.374
C	1.191	1.182	1.181	1.171
D	ND	ND	ND	ND
E	ND	ND	ND	ND

Titration Point	Rep1	Rep2	Rep3	Rep4
	A	2.093	2.094	2.074
B	1.459	1.469	1.483	1.487
C	1.226	1.215	1.233	1.245
D	ND	ND	ND	ND
E	ND	ND	ND	ND

Titration Point	Rep1	Rep2	Rep3	Rep4
	A	1.99	2.006	1.994
B	1.354	1.353	1.362	1.341
C	ND	ND	ND	ND
D	ND	ND	ND	ND
E	ND	ND	ND	ND

**LOD<sub>80</sub>**: the lowest VAF at which at least 80% of replicates can be detected

## Limit of Reporting Thresholds

- SNVs ≥ 0.5% VAF
- Indels ≥ 0.5% VAF
- Translocations ≥ 1.0% VAF
- ≥ 3 supporting reads
- CNVs ≥ 1.3-fold change





## Past Clinical Trials

- **NCI-MPACT: a pilot precision medicine study, MoCha provided a targeted NGS clinical assay**
- **NCI-MATCH:**
  - ◇ Implemented a 4 clinical laboratory network
  - ◇ Harmonized and analytically validated a central laboratory assay in all 4 labs
  - ◇ Supported screening of the first 6,000 patients
  - ◇ Implemented 29 laboratory designated laboratory network
    - Vetted analytical validation and required concordance testing
- **Pediatric MATCH**
  - ◇ Utilized existing central laboratory network and NCI-MATCH clinical assay



# MDNet: Laboratory Support for 3 New Precision Medicine Trials

## ■ iMATCH

◇ Pilot trial will use 2 biomarkers:

- TMB via harmonized cWES in MoCha and 1 sub-contracted lab
- Tumor inflammation score (TIS), 2 sub-contracted laboratories working with NanoString

## ■ MyeloMATCH; (IDE)

◇ 3 assays requiring 72-hour turn-around-time

- Cytogenetics (reflux FISH); sub-contracted
- Targeted NGS; MoCha and 1 sub-contracted
- FLOW; 1 sub-contracted lab

## ■ COMBO-MATCH

◇ NCI-MATCH Designated Lab Network (increased to ~40 labs)

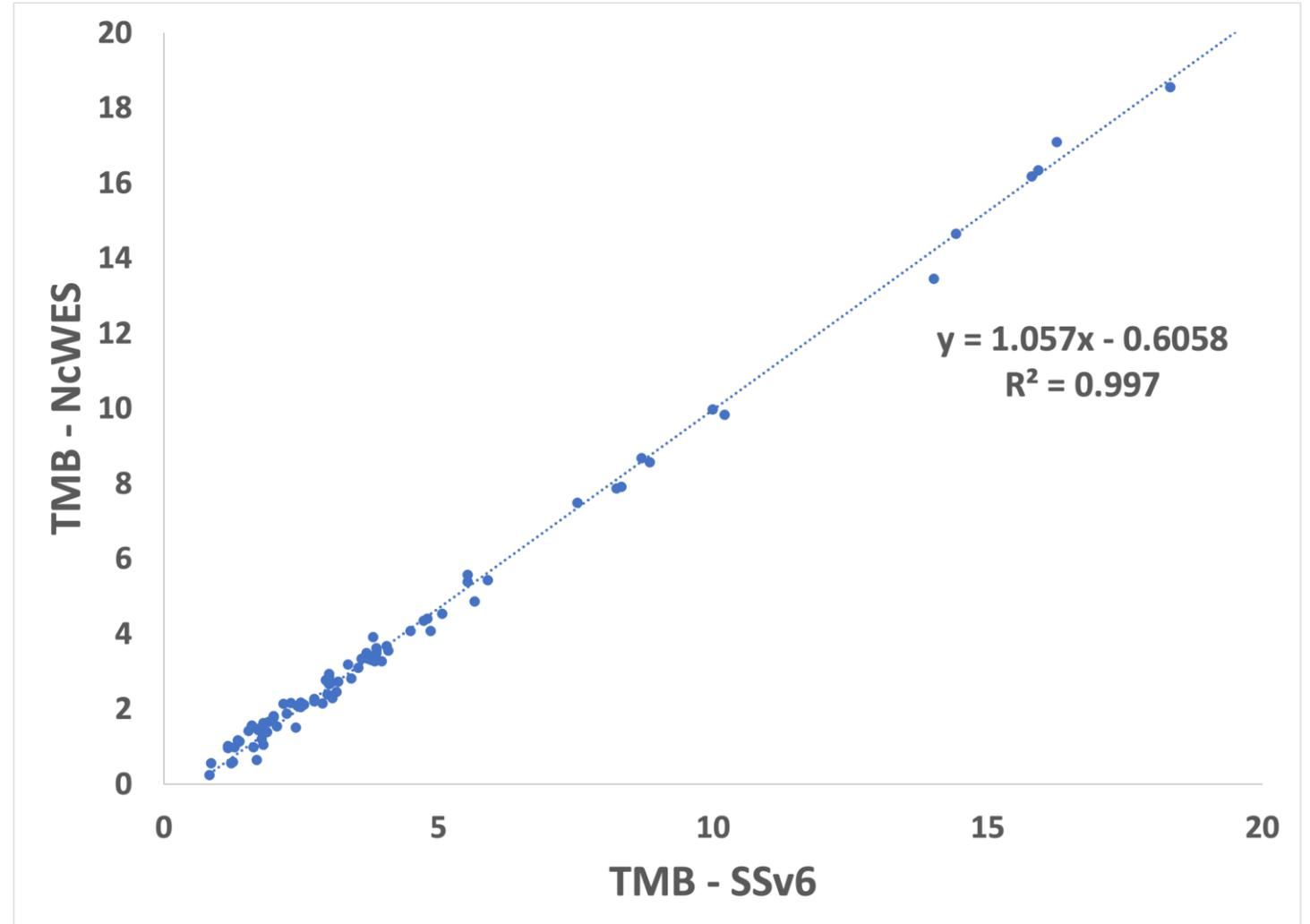


# Clinical Whole Exome Sequencing (cWES) Assay

- Analytically validated WES assay for iMATCH (TMB Integral assay), Integrated assay for ComboMATCH and ETCTN clinical trials
- ~44 Mb target region
- Higher coverage in the exons of 671 genes for increased sensitivity for SNV/Indels (genes annotated in OncoKB database as oncogenic or likely oncogenic)
- Integrated and Exploratory Biomarkers:
  - ◇ Coverage in intronic regions of actionable fusion genes to identify translocations
  - ◇ Additional probes (tiled across genome at 1MB intervals) for identifying LOH regions, focal amplifications
  - ◇ WES data analysis pipeline will also report MSI and HLA Class I typing
  - ◇ Detection of 7 oncogenic virus family
- Fast turnaround time needed for prospective reporting (<2 weeks)

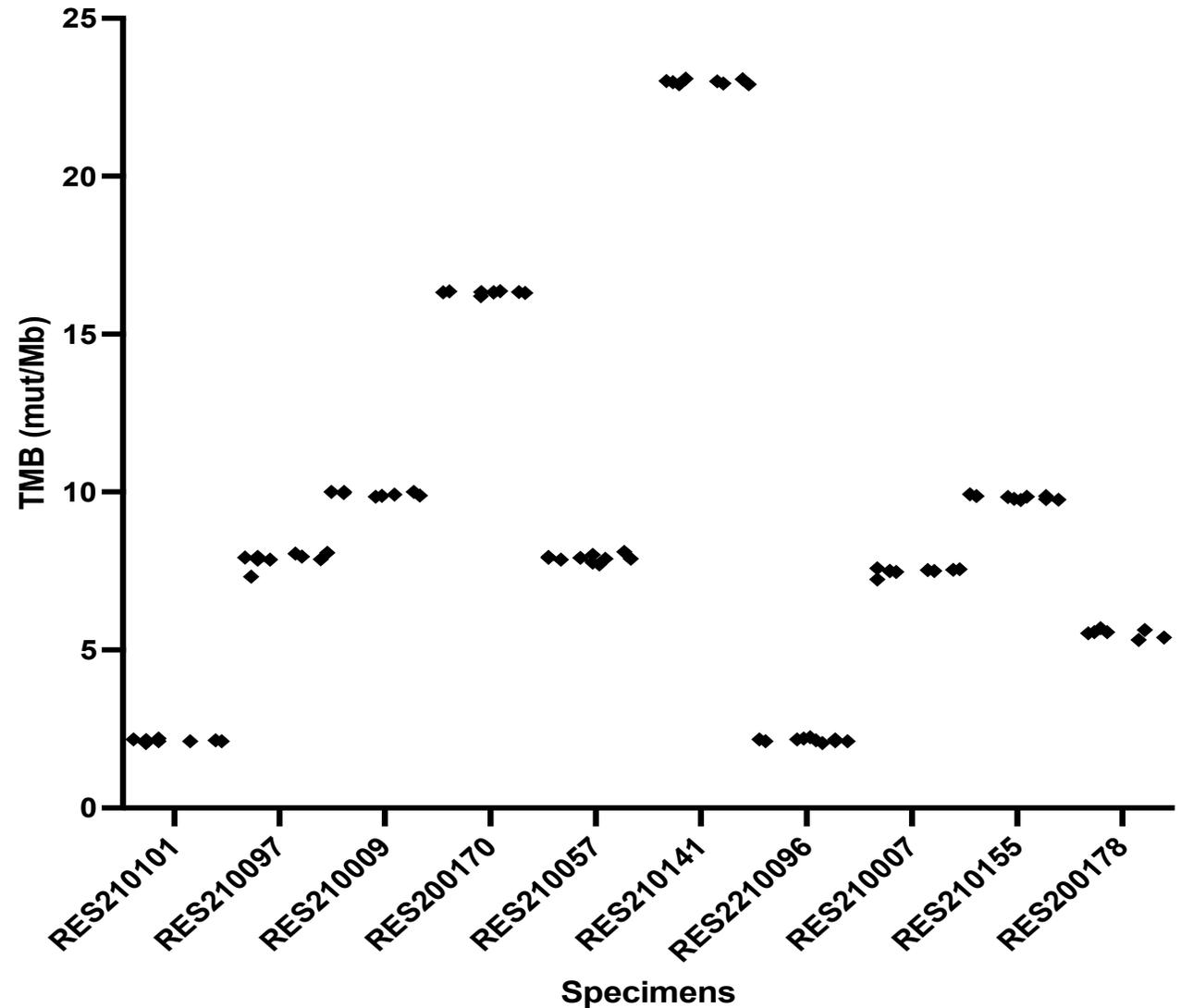
# Correlation of TMB with an Orthogonal Assay

- Correlation study for TMB was performed using Research WES assay as the orthogonal assay
- 91 specimens tested
- TMB is ranging from 0-140 mut/Mb



# Precision of cWES TMB

- Precision of TMB values across the reportable range of 5-20 mut/Mb is high (% CV <2.87)
- It is within the acceptance criteria (%CV <20%)



# NCI-Myeloid Assay

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- Developed under NCI CRADA with Thermo-Fisher
- Sequencing chemistry uses isothermal amplification of targeted DNA/RNA followed by synthesis-based sequencing
- Minimal sample input 30 ng DNA and RNA
- Fully automated workflow:
  - ◇ Load a plate of DNA and RNA from patient samples
  - ◇ Receive all data for review and a clinical report
  - ◇ **Faster TAT (1-2 days)**



# NCI-Myeloid Assay – Version 2 (NMAv2)

DNA hotspots				
<i>ABL1</i>	<i>ANKRD26</i>	<i>BRAF</i>	<i>CBL</i>	<i>CSF3R</i>
<i>DDX41</i>	<i>DNMT3A</i>	<i>FLT3</i>	<i>GATA2</i>	<i>HRAS</i>
<i>IDH1</i>	<i>IDH2</i>	<i>JAK2</i>	<i>KIT</i>	<i>KRAS</i>
<i>MPL</i>	<i>MYD88</i>	<i>NPM1</i>	<i>NRAS</i>	<i>PPM1D</i>
<i>PTPN11</i>	<i>SETBP1</i>	<i>SF3B1</i>	<i>SMC1A</i>	<i>SMC3</i>
<i>SRSF2</i>	<i>U2AF1</i>	<i>WT1</i>		
DNA Full Gene				
<i>ASXL1</i>	<i>BCOR</i>	<i>CALR</i>	<i>CEBPA</i>	<i>ETV6</i>
<i>EZH2</i>	<i>IKZF1</i>	<i>NF1</i>	<i>PHF6</i>	<i>PRPF8</i>
<i>RB1</i>	<i>RUNX1</i>	<i>SH2B3</i>	<i>STAG2</i>	<i>TET2</i>
<i>TP53</i>	<i>ZRSR2</i>			
RNA Fusion Driver Genes				
<i>ABL1</i>	<i>ALK</i>	<i>BCL2</i>	<i>BRAF</i>	<i>CCND1</i>
<i>CREBBP</i>	<i>EGFR</i>	<i>ETV6</i>	<i>FGFR1</i>	<i>FGFR2</i>
<i>FUS</i>	<i>HMGA2</i>	<i>JAK2</i>	<i>KMT2A</i>	<i>MECOM</i>
			( <i>MLL</i> ) +PTDs	
<i>MET</i>	<i>MLLT10</i>	<i>MLLT3</i>	<i>MYBL1</i>	<i>MYH11</i>
<i>NTRK3</i>	<i>NUP214</i>	<i>NUP98</i>	<i>PDGFRA</i>	<i>PDGFRB</i>
<i>RARA</i>	<i>RBM15</i>	<i>RUNX1</i>	<i>TCF3</i>	<i>TFE3</i>
<i>BAALC</i>	<i>MECOM</i>	<i>MYC</i>	<i>SMC1A</i>	<i>WT1</i>

- **NMAv2 covers**

- ◇ 45 DNA genes and 35 fusion driver genes
- ◇ Includes 28/30 (93.3%) genes mutated with  $\geq 3\%$  frequency in AML.
- ◇ Includes 36/50 (72%) genes mutated with  $> 1\%$  frequency in AML.
- ◇ Includes 779 unique fusions reported in AML

- **Can detect all genetic alterations needed for**

- ◇ WHO classification of AML, except inv 3
- ◇ NCCN/ELN risk stratification, except inv 3

- **NMAv2 can detect**

- ◇ FLT3-ITD up to 120bp
- ◇ Alterations in CEBPA

# Validation Summary

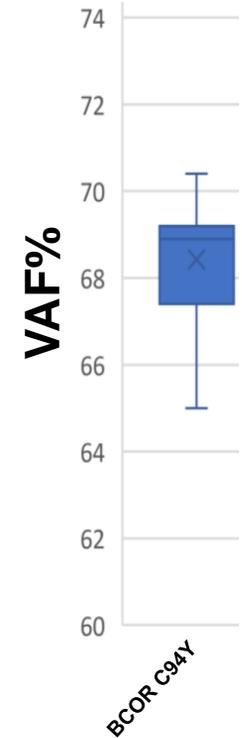
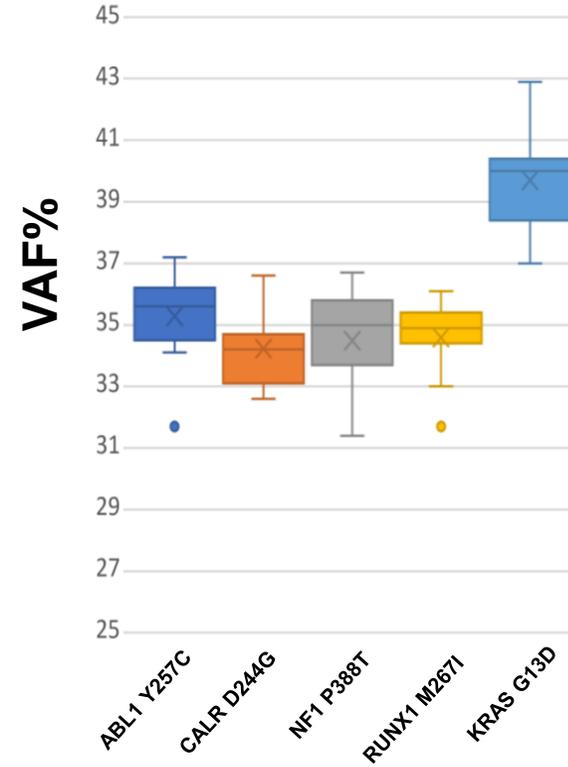
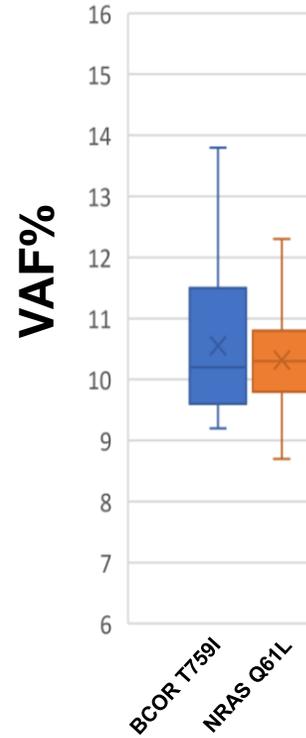
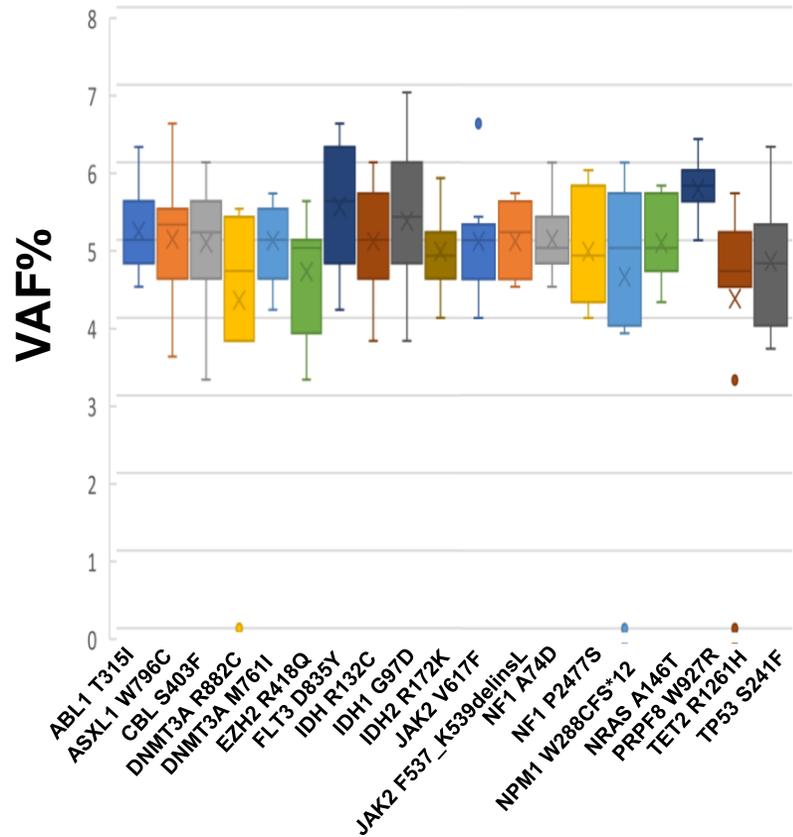
## NMAv2 Performance:

- **Specificity: 100%**
- **Overall sensitivity: 98.9%**
  - ◇ SNVs: 97.78%
  - ◇ Indels: 100%
  - ◇ Fusions: 100%
- **Reproducibility**
  - ◇ Mean PPA: 98.33%
  - ◇ Mean NPA: 100%
- **LOD**
  - ◇ SNVs: HS <0.06%, Non-HS <2%
  - ◇ Indels: HS <2%, Non-HS <3%
  - ◇ FLT3-ITDs: 0.3% for 40bp
  - ◇ Fusion: 40 read counts, 0.1% tumor content

**LOR: Will report out SNV/Indels >5% VAF, but assay is validated to report**

1.  $\geq 2.5\%$  for all SNVs
2.  $\geq 3\%$  for all indels
3. 1% for FLT3-ITD
4.  $\geq 100$  read counts or two reproducible calls for fusions detected at <100 reads, with exception of the KMT2A-PTD fusion which requires reporting if detected at  $\geq 2000$  read counts.

# Precision of NMAv2 Assay



Contrived material and leukemia cell lines, sequenced multiple times ( $\geq 35$ )



# Reference Materials, Quality Control Materials and Diagnostic Harmonization Efforts

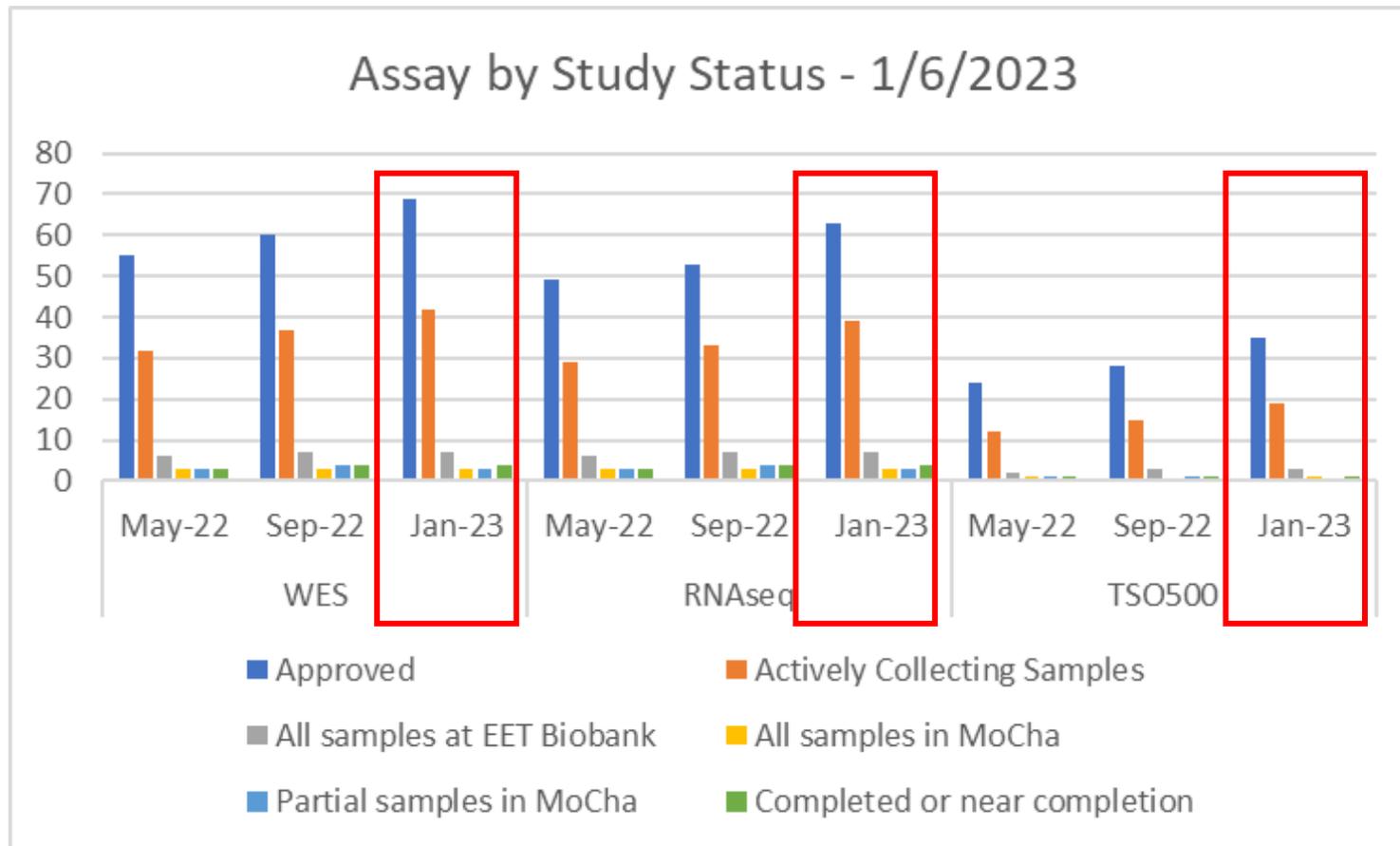
- **Precision Medicine efforts require Dx assays for cancer patient management**
- **Difficult to judge accuracy and comparability of these complex assays**
- **MoCha has engaged in:**
  - ◇ Genome in a Bottle; human genome RM (NIST)
  - ◇ Developed and Implemented Oncology RM (SeraCare CRADA)
  - ◇ Co-Developed Copy Number RM (NIST)
  - ◇ Developing ctDNA QCM (FNIH, NIST)
  - ◇ FOQR TMB Comparability Study
  - ◇ FOQR HRD Comparability Study
  - ◇ Contributed to CIMAC genomic assay harmonization effort
  - ◇ SRS Somatic Reference Samples (based on Genome in a Bottle RM)



# National Clinical Laboratory Network (NCLN)

- **National Clinical Laboratory Network supports Early Treatment Clinical Trial Network**
- **Serve as expert evaluators of study proposals**
- **Provide robust analytically validated assays for Pharmacodynamic and Genomic Analysis (PADIS and MoCha)**
  - ◇ MoCha is providing genomic assay support for ETCTN
    - WES
    - RNASeq
    - ctDNA predictive and longitudinal

# NCLN Genomic Assay Status





# Acknowledgements to MANY!!

- **NCI**
- **Our many subcontractors and collaborators**
- **Many non-MoCha collaborators within Leidos: FNLCR**
- **All of the staff at MoCha**
  - ◇ Chris Karlovich PhD, Associate Director
  - ◇ Lily Chen PhD, BioInformatic/Computational Biology
  - ◇ Bishu Das PhD, R&D
  - ◇ DJ Jiwani MD PhD, CLIA Lab Director/Histology
  - ◇ Sean McDermott PhD, Moonshot Biobank
- **OPEN TO COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS?**



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